

delighted and improved the world; and with what accuracy this observer of nature distinguished the different species of the production of the Forest, an accuracy not excelled by that of Spencer himself, may be seen in his description of the woodland haunts he so much loved.

"Nor less attractive is the woodland scene,
Diversified with trees of every growth,
Alike, yet various. Here the gray smooth trunks
Of ash, or lime, or beech, distinctly shine,
Within the twilight of their distant shades:
There lost behind a rising ground, the wood
Seems sunk, and shorten'd to its topmost boughs.
No tree in all the grove but has its charms,
Though each its hue peculiar; paler some,
And of a wannish gray; the willow such,
And poplar, that with silver lines his leaf,

And ash far-stretching his umbrageous arm;
Of deeper green the elm; and deeper still,
Lord of the woods, the long-surviving oak,
Some glossy-leaved, and shining in the sun,
The maple, and the beech, of oily nuts
Prolific, and the lime at dewy eve
Diffusing odours: nor unnoted pass
The sycamore, capricious in attire,
Now green, now tawny, and ere autumn yet
Have changed the woods, in scarlet honours bright."

PLATE XXXVI.—THE TALL OAK AT FREDVILLE.

THIS Oak completes the trio which has been already described as standing on the lawn of John Plumtre, Esq. of Fredville, in Kent; plates of the other two have also been given in the early numbers of this work. It is known by the appropriate name of *STATELY*, and is a beautiful specimen of a straight-stemmed Oak, which is rarely found to attain to so great a height, without branching out into exuberance of boughs. Seldom can three Oaks so differing from each other in individual character, and so interesting altogether, be found in such near proximity. Protected from violence, they are still likely to stand for many centuries; and it may be hoped that they will as long continue to delight the descendants of the family by whom they are at present so highly valued, and so carefully preserved.

PLATE XXXVII.—THE HORSE CHESNUT AT BURLEIGH.

THE Horse Chesnut, we are informed by Evelyn, was first brought from Constantinople to Vienna; thence into Italy, and so to France: but more immediately to us from the Levant. It is probable that its introduction into England took place about the year 1500; and so well has it liked its naturalization, that it at present forms one of the chief ornaments of our groves and parks; and from the value of its timber, the usefulness of its fruit in feeding deer, and the majestic beauty of its appearance, few trees will be found more deserving of the attention of the planter. To the painter the magnificence of its stature, and the beauty of its broad palmated leaves, and long pendant spikes of flowers scarcely atone for the exceeding regularity of its form, terminating as it invariably does when left to the hand of nature, in an exact parabola. But in the extraordinary specimen of this tree, which is to be seen in the Court-yard of Burleigh House, the ancient and highly interesting seat of the Marquess of Exeter, all its beauties will be found exhibited in their utmost perfection, without the drawback of a single disadvantage. From being enclosed in a space comparatively confined, the formality of its summit is exchanged for increased length of stem; the tree having shot up unusually high, most likely in the endeavour to lift its head above the surrounding walls, which at once shelter it from the injury, and impede that free play of the elements in which the "native burghers of the forest" naturally delight. Its branches feathering down to the velvet turf on which it stands, exhibit a delightful alternation of milk-white flowers and russet fruits; whilst the stately trunk displays an elegance and majesty, which combined with the venerable turrets that rise around, filling the mind with recollections of the Cecils and the Burleighs of former ages, render it an object not to be looked upon without exciting feelings in which tranquillity and admiration are most pleasingly united.

The height of this fine tree is sixty feet, its circumference at four feet from the ground is ten feet; it contains three hundred feet of solid timber, and its branches extend over an area of sixty-one feet in diameter.